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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Isabelle POQUET *et al.*) Confirmation No.: 1150
Application No.: 09/869,106) Group Art Unit: 1645
Filing date: October 9, 2001) Examiner: Jennifer E. Graser
For: GRAM POSITIVE BACTERIA DEPRIVED OF)
HtrA PROTEASE ACTIVITY AND THEIR USES)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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ELECTION AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the ~~Restriction Requirement~~ dated March 21, 2003 (Paper No. 9),

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (method of producing a protein of interest by culturing a gram positive bacterial strain which does not express a functional HtrA protease). New claim 23 has been added to present the product used in claim 1 in an independent format and claims 17 and 19-21 have been amended to depend from new claim 23. The election of Group I., claims 11-16, is made with traverse.

Please amend the application by inserting the following amended claims for claims 17, 19, 20 and 21 and adding new claim 23.